Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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CLUSTER ONE

Submitted by Norway

1. Norway believes there would be merit in voluntary measures to increase transparency on holdings of weapons-grade fissile material, plutonium and highly enriched uranium (HEU). Transparency as a confidence-building measure should apply to all States with a nuclear capability, but for obvious reasons the primary burden would fall on the nuclear-weapon States.

2. A fundamental prerequisite for transparency would be the application of consistent and strict standards of accounting and secure handling and storage procedures for fissile material at the national level.

3. Voluntary transparency measures of this character would facilitate negotiations on a "cut-off" treaty as well as any future talks on nuclear disarmament.

4. The following measures could be considered for successive implementation:

(a) All nuclear-capable States would submit information on their stocks, if any, of weapons-grade fissile material;

(b) Cooperative international measures would be put into place in order to clarify and confirm these declarations;

(c) The nuclear-weapon States, or any State that submits information on holdings of weapons-grade fissile material, could permit inspection of such holdings. The aim would be to ensure that the inventory in storage can only be withdrawn for non-weapons purposes;

(d) Agreed monitored net reductions from stockpiles could be envisaged.

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